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Feline Friends

Volunteers care for cats at shelters throughout campus

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Tough season

Senior Burns finds optimism in final games as Loper

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To close or not to close?



Discussions to close campus for bad weather start early, happen often

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Online sales tax won't save mom and pop

Internet sales tax is new revenue, unlikely to save physical locations



Elliot Gonnella
Antelope Staff

Online shopping has been a talking point in regards to both politics and economics for almost

the past two decades. Cyber Monday, the unofficial online-shopping holiday on the first Monday after Thanksgiving, is approaching its fourteenth year of existence, it has now surpassed Black Friday with total sales in a single day.

With the rise of online companies like Amazon, which accumulated of over 73 billion dollars in the last quarter of 2018, there has never been a better time to shop a wide variety of items that may not be found in your traditional brick and mortar stores. University students especially benefit from the ease of buying things at a discounted price and finding specialty items that other places wouldn't have at

a local corner on the market.

As with any advancement, there have always been detractors with complaints that can be logical, emotional, irrational, or some combination thereof. Perhaps the one that has held the most weight is not that the online economy is destroying physical locations, at least not at the rate commonly said, but the issue of taxation.

Taxing online sales has always been something akin to an accountant's Wild West, full of contradicting rules, varying levels of qualification, and the voluntary mention of sales for both businesses and the consumers. I am not that surprised that governments have been looking for a way to tap into that revenue stream for their own benefit,

“Taxing online sales has always been something akin to an accountant’s Wild West...”

and after years of trying, the states got their opening.

In the recent court ruling, South Dakota v Wayfair Inc., the Supreme Court decided to allow states to enforce sales taxes on companies that use the internet to sell products. Almost twenty states, including Nebraska, have started to create legislation to be introduced, pending the ruling of the court to get that sought after revenue from businesses, large and small.

I have already seen taxes collect revenue from some purchases online I made through

Amazon, and at the moment they are reasonable. They’ve proven to be nothing extravagant, just a few more bucks after I confirm my address. So far, these taxes do not concern me when it comes to paying them.

What does concern me is how these taxes will be administered throughout the states.

The Court only gave the green light

for states to collect taxes; it did not lay out a specific plan of how these taxes would be collected, what rate would be acceptable, and what exceptions would be given. So while permission has been granted for revenue to be collected, it is still going to be the preverbal Wild West for the state revenue agents and those who handle the accounts for businesses.

Each state is going to have their own rules, and it will still be a jumbled mess of limits, rates, and taxable sales. Nebraska, for example, is looking at enforcing taxes on online sales for those that make more than \$100,000 in sales or two hundred transactions online. Other states have proposed stricter tax rules, or similar but slightly different exceptions.

While smaller companies may not need to worry too much about these rulings, it will be difficult to keep up to date for medium size and up companies that don't have the resources of a corporation.

The way the states plan to spend this sudden flush of income is also a bit disheartening for me. Governor

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Cover Photo

Photo by Hanna Hake

Democrats jump into 2020 primaries

Numerous
Dems ready
to challenge
Donald Trump

Amelia Cooper
Antelope Staff

With voting becoming a revolving topic of discussion, especially with the controversies with the current president, knowing who the presidential candidates are is crucial to choose who to vote for in the primaries.

On top of the current president, according to Time, “there has been over 450 candidates that have registered with the Federal Election Commission to run for president in 2020.” But who are the bigger names that are running against the incumbent?

A few that are building attention for themselves are: Sen. Bernie Sanders, Sen. Kamala Harris, Sen. Cory Booker, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, Julian Castro, Howard Schultz and Rep. John Delaney.

On Feb. 19, Bernie Sanders officially entered the 2020 presidential race and within the first four hours he managed to raise over \$1 million. Sanders had been previously beat by past U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton in 2016. Sanders has been a major advocate for the \$15 federal minimum wage, universal healthcare and campaign finance reform.

Sen. Kamala Harris is currently

Democrats at the Polls

Morning Consult poll of likely 2020 Iowa Primary voters

Candidate	Polling Percentage	Candidate	Polling Percentage
Joe Biden*	27.5	Amy Klobuchar	3.7
Bernie Sanders	16.8	Michael Bloomberg*	3.3
Kamala Harris	10.3	Sherrod Brown*	1.7
Elizabeth Warren	7.5	Tulsi Gabbard	1.3
Beto O'Rourke*	6.8	Julian Castro	1.3
Cory Booker	5.0		

Spread: Biden +9

*Candidate has not formally declared presidential bid

Polling conducted Feb. 11 - 17
Source: Real Clear Politics

a U.S. senator from California, and she announced that she was entering the race on Jan. 21 with the slogan, “Kamala Harris for the People” on Good Morning America. According to kamalaharris.org, she supports a real tax cut for the middle class and Medicare-for-All. According to CBS News, she raised about \$1.5 million in the first 24 hours of her campaign.

Sen. Cory Booker announced his candidacy on Feb. 1 through a video on The View, multiple radio interviews and a press conference. Booker is a U.S. senator from New Jersey and, according to Time, he “continually sponsors bills that aim to alleviate

poverty, expand affordable access to healthcare and raise the minimum wage.”

Sen. Elizabeth Warren officially announced she was running for president on Feb. 9 at a rally in Massachusetts. Her main rationale is that she can help rebuild the middle class.

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard is currently a U.S. Representative from Hawaii’s 2nd District. She officially announced her candidacy on Feb. 2 at an event in Hawaii. Gabbard is currently for standing up against Big Pharma and is for Medicare-for-All.

One of the candidates that is not

a representative or senator is Julian Castro. He was previously the Mayor of San Antonio and former President Barack Obama’s Housing and Urban Development Secretary. Castro officially came out with his candidacy on Jan. 12. He has opinions on immigration and is an outspoken anti-Trump advocate.

As we wait for the primaries and for the continuing amount of people announcing their candidacy, learning more on the current candidates can help voters learn what policies they agree with for each candidate. So read up, learn more and vote in the primaries.

Administration's snow day stress

Deciding to close campus is more complicated than students think

Hanna Hake
Antelope Staff

A topic that has been discussed continually this year on and around the UNK campus is one that university administrators take very seriously—cancelling classes because of the weather.

“Our number one priority is to be open,” said Jon Watts, UNK’s Vice



JON WATTS

Chancellor for Business and Finance. “The best place for our students to be is in their classes or participating in activities, so we really start by doing everything we can to keep campus open.”

When it comes to making a call or whether to close campus or not, the decision is not a simple one, and is not made by just one person.

“We consult with our facilities team, and our UNK police department and our local emergency management,” Watts said. “Monday through Sunday, it doesn’t matter. There’s not a day we don’t look at the weather. There’s no cut and dry answer, but the process starts early and often.”

With advice from personnel, including the Vice Chancellor for Business & Finance, the decision to close the university because of severe weather is made by the Chancellor.

“At the end of the day it comes down to a recommendation to Chancellor Kristensen,” Watts said. “He’s the leader of our campus. He makes the decision on numerous factors from activities that we have, to out of town guests that might be visiting our campus and students traveling in on the highways. We know we have a lot of commuter students and faculty traveling from other communities, so all of those are factors. It’s Nebraska and it’s winter.”

This has been a particularly busy winter for the UNK grounds crew who has been working hard to help keep campus open.

“We start by clearing the ADA accessible paths,” Watts said.

To view a map of these sidewalks,

visit www.unk.edu/campus-map/ and select the accessible walking path icon and numerous blue paths will be displayed. Snow removal is prioritized in the following order: accessible pedestrian areas, remaining pedestrian areas, parking areas, and campus roads.

“Our goal is to always make a decision by 6:00 a.m., if not the night before,” Watts said. “A couple of the ice events (this winter) were challenging because by 6:00 a.m. the ice wasn’t a problem, but between 6:30 and 7:30 it became a problem, and by then it’s too late.”

“We get complaints, but people should really understand that our **number one priority is to be open**, and we make our decisions with that in mind.”

“These last couple storms our campus has used about four tons of salt each time, so one of the challenges is that if there’s a lot of snow forecasted, we will hold off salting parking lots,

because we can only have so much salt on hand, and if there’s the potential to not have enough salt for the couple hundred acres of sidewalks.”

Every reasonable effort is made to clear multiple entry/exit points for each of UNK’s residence halls. UNK custodian staff is responsible for clearing snow within 15 feet of the buildings, giving the grounds crew the ability to move through faster. During last year’s significant budget cuts, two ground positions were eliminated, leaving the small team short two bodies this winter.

“It’s a small team but it’s all a team effort,” Watts said. “We also really try to invest in good equipment and that makes a huge difference. We get complaints, but

- Jon Watts

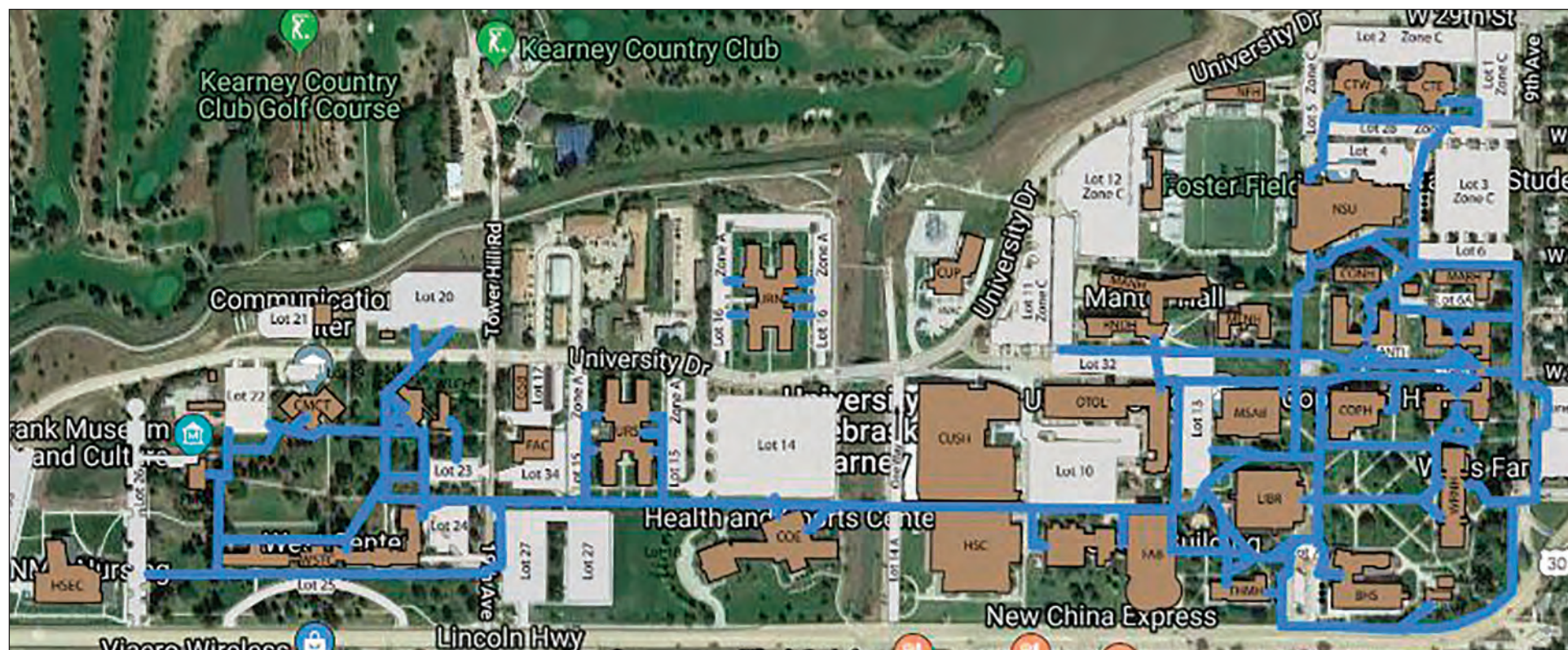
people should really understand that our number one priority is to be open, and we make our decisions with that in mind.”

What do you think?

Send in your thoughts or stories about the winter weather and they could get published in next weeks paper!

Contact us by
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Letter to the editor policy: In order for a letter to the editor to be considered for publication, it must be signed. Individuals are limited to having two letters to the editor printed each semester.



Photos by Hannah Hake and Rachel Overby

Top: The UNK grounds crew starts working to clear the ADA accessible paths as soon as possible. They are cleared at the highest priority after a snow or ice event. **Bottom:** Icy sidewalks, steets and parking lots have been a common and dangerous issue this winter.

LoperCats provide help for campus cats

Volunteers have set out to improve the lives of felines living at UNK

Braydon Conell

Antelope Staff

Students, faculty and community members cannot wander around UNK's campus without noticing the presence of at least a few cats, especially when it is warmer and the cats are more active. These felines, referred to as LoperCats, have a more important role in our campus community.

LoperCats is an organization here in Kearney that works to help the feline population on campus. Two of the leaders of this group are Sherry Morrow and Deb Schroeder. Nearly 20 years ago, Morrow came upon the problem of UNK's feral cats and saw a need to do something about it.

Morrow is a cat owner herself and grew up with a strong sense of empathy toward animals.

"My parents could never stand to see an animal hungry," Morrow said. "I can't either, but I was seeing hungry cats on campus and around the community. She has given this same love of animals to the cats in the Kearney community."

There is an estimated population of around 100 million feral cats worldwide with nearly 60 million just in the United States. Cats, even those that are domesticated, are territorial and often have varying territory sizes. Here at UNK, these cats may stick close to one building or they may spread well out of the 235-acre campus.

After gathering donations from local construction companies, partnering with the university's

building and grounds department and the UNK Construction Management Organization, LoperCats built several small feeding stations that offer shelter and hold food and water. These stations are placed at seven sites on campus. They are in places across campus that are don't attract much attention. Three sites, for example, are on the north side of the student union, at the Fine Arts Building and near the College of Education.

Volunteers have helped LoperCats leaders and assist in maintaining the shelters and watching for new cats that need medical care. LoperCats participates in what is known as a trap-neuter-release program. This is a process in which feral cat colony populations are maintained through removing the ability to reproduce without cutting the life of these animals short. This program promotes a healthy populated colony and helps protect natural wildlife such as birds and small mammals at the same time.

"I don't think they should be euthanized because they are part of the ecosystem and should be protected, as well," said Giovanni Luna, a freshman biology major from Grand Island. "LoperCats are a part of what makes UNK a great campus and becoming involved was an easy way to help out my favorite animal in the world."

LoperCats welcomes any student who cares about the cat community to become a volunteer and contributor. Possible volunteers are encouraged to reach out to Sherry Morrow, Deb Schroeder or former or current



Photo by Braydon Conell

Giovanni Luna provides milk to the shelter at the College of Education. A black cat left the shelter shortly before Luna refilled the food and water.

volunteers of this organization.

As with any organization, LoperCats is also always looking for more resources: monetary donations and food, for example. LoperCats is a member of the Give Where You Live Event and donations can be directed to the Kearney Area Community Foundation. Further, food donations are something else that can directly help the cats on campus. The organization encourages community members to look out for any way to get inexpensive cat food. For example,

Family Fresh Market recently had a promotion where cardholders could get a free bag of cat food.

LoperCats encourages students and community members to check out the LoperCats' Facebook page to keep up to date on events in the community and to see what cat lovers are doing nationally. And remember, if you see a cat around campus, treat it with kindness and know that hardworking volunteers are engaged in giving it a better life.

Men's team fights to rise

Burns find optimism during Loper's struggling season

Jack McLeay

Antelope Staff

This season hasn't been what the UNK men's basketball team had hoped for.

After being defeated by Northwest Missouri State on Thursday, Jan. 24, the Lopers fell to 6-12 on the season. Carter Burns, a Senior from Iowa, spoke words of encouragement for the future of the program as he entered his last 10 games wearing a UNK jersey.

UNK has brought on 7 new faces to this year's roster and Burns has helped to create a new identity as well as give wisdom to the youth throughout the season.

"We have grown so much as a team,"

Burns said. "We have a young team and every game is a chance to learn. Win or lose, we have improved almost every game. We learn something new about ourselves every game."

What has stayed consistent throughout this year is the mentality of the players before they step onto the court.

"In the locker room before the game we try to focus on what we need to do to win," Burns said. "Everyone has a different role, but we want to come out with the mentality that everyone is playing for each other."

Burns, who has seen significant playing time since his freshman year in 2015, has seen many different outcomes while playing for UNK. From

NCAA tournament runs, to losing seasons, Burns has been able to stay consistent throughout his career.

"I have learned how to handle the ups and the downs of a season," Burns said. "That is the most impactful thing I want to leave for my teammates because it was the most important lesson I learned here in my four years."

Regardless of the record, Burns is proud of his career at UNK and the team he has played on.

"I have played with some great players, and created even better friends," Burns said. "I want to be able to leave this place satisfied that this team went out with a positive culture and their heads held high."

The Lopers will next be in action at home Thursday against Pittsburg St.. On Saturday they'll end the regular season versus Missouri Southern St. at the Health and Sports Center.



Photos by Kosuke Yoshii

Carter Burns, pictured middle, claps and cheers on his teammates during a home game against Lindenwood.

WRESTLING from page 8

He won three straight matches, to get to the third and fourth place bout. There he met up with James Romero of Adams State.

He controlled from start to finish in a 17-5 major decision victory.

"Jarrod's performance after getting upset in the quarterfinals shows a lot about his character, said Jensen. To come back and win 4 straight matches after getting upset shows a lot of heart. I was very proud to see how he bounced back after that loss."

Jon Killingsworth at 141 and Isaac Deaton at 184 both got to the third and fourth place match but ended with losses.

At 197, Trey Schlender was 3-2 on the day. He advanced to the semifinals with two victories but then lost twice, to Wade French of Chadron State and Dylan McBride of Western Colorado.

In the fifth-sixth place match, Schlender ended the day by pinning Jacob Feldman of Colorado Mesa.

"We are leaving four of our starters at home as they did not qualify," Jensen said. "It's tough watching these guys put in so much work and not get to be with us at the national tournament."

UNK will be back in action March 8-9 as the Lopers go for a team title at the NCAA championships at Notre Dame College in Cleveland, Ohio.

SALES TAX from page 2

Ricketts is pushing for the revenue from online sales to be used to fund property tax relief, in a time where public education and other services are seeing a decrease in their budgets. Nothing has been set in stone yet, but it seems that the executive, and some legislature, of our state aim to use the sales taxes as a pork barrel for a select few in their voter base.

Finally, I do not see these taxes as a way to 'save' the mom and pop stores from the big bad online retailers. The landscape of the marketplace is changing and technology will always

be an asset for any company, both to keep up with the rules and regulations in addition to being open to a wider consumer base. Businesses will not come back to Main Street because of these taxes.

You may see a slight cost increase in ordering products online in the future, but very little will change otherwise. The government is taking their share, and one can only hope the funds are appropriate and serve a real purpose, rather than as a slush fund for supporters.

The Antelope Has Gone Digital

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Wrestling claims super regional title

Lopers qualify six for nationals

Alex Eller
Antelope Staff

The Lopers didn't disappoint in front of their home crowd, racking up 121.50 points throughout the day. UNK had a placer at every weight class except one and qualified six wrestlers for the national tournament.

"We won the regional tournament as a team and that's a great thing," Dalton Jensen said, UNK wrestling coach. "We do not take that for granted. I'm very pleased with our six NCAA qualifiers and excited to see them compete at the national tournament. The guys we are taking are all capable of doing some special things at nationals."

To get more wrestlers to the national tournament, the NCAA opened 20 extra bids for the Super Regionals. They did this by creating six Super Regionals rather than the four seen in the past. Because of this, the top three finishers in each weight class qualified instead of the top four.

At 125 pounds, UNK had the No. 1 wrestler in the Super Regional coming in, Josh Portillo. In his first match of the day, he made quick work of Dominic Rivera of New Mexico Highlands, beating him by tech fall 17-1.

In the semifinals and finals, Portillo drew Josiah Seaton from Colorado State-Pueblo and Jonathan Andreatta of Adam State. In both matches, the sophomore from Clarion, Iowa, jumped in front early and rode his opponents out.

He won by decision 6-3 over Seaton

and beat Andreatta 7-5.

Matt Malcom was the other champion for the Lopers at 157. He dominated in the first two rounds, tech falling both his opponents.

In the championship, Malcom wrestled Skylar Lykins of Colorado School of Mines and won by major decision 13-4.

"Matt has had a great season up to this point, Jensen said. "His ability to light up the score board on a consistent basis is what makes him such a special wrestler. Throughout the seven-minute matches he works at a high pace and is constantly looking to score points."

UNK had three wrestlers take second place on the podium.

Redshirt sophomore Wesley Dawkins at 133 pinned his first opponent Bracken Lovell of Colorado Mesa in 1:43.

In the semifinals, he got an upset over No.4 ranked Darek Huff of Adams State. Dawkins rode him from the top position in every period, to earn an 8-0 decision.

The championship had Dawkins paired up against No. 2 in the nation D'andre Brumfield of Colorado State-Pueblo. Brumfield controlled the match from the top in the first period and then pinned Dawkins in the second at 3:10.

At 165, Calvin Ochs wrestled smart and only gave up a combined two points in his first two matches.

In the semifinals against Zane Zeman of Colorado State-Pueblo, the match was neck and neck up to the third period. It was then that Ochs was



Photo by Alex Eller

Isaac Deaton looks to takedown Colorado Mesa's Nolan Krone. Deaton beat Krone by decision 6-5.

finally able to get Zeman on his back and get near fall points to win 7-1.

In the title bout, it was strength vs. strength. Neither Ochs or Koery Windham of Adam State were willing to give up anything.

Both did a good job of countering the other's move, and as a result, regulation ended with a stalemate at 1-1.

The turning point in the match was when Windham broke through and finally got Ochs on the mat. As a result, he was able to pick up the 5-4 decision in the fourth overtime.

Zach Stodden, a senior for the Lopers, took advantage of a wide open 174-pound weight class. In the first-round matchup, he got a 5-1 decision over Seth Lathman of Colorado Mesa.

Then in the semifinal, he pulled off the late 8-6 victory over Robert Gambrell of Colorado School of

Mines. This punched his ticket into the national tournament.

In the championship, Stodden met No. 1 and undefeated Brandon Supernaw of Western Colorado. He gave him his toughest match of the day, but in the end it wasn't enough, as he fell 7-2.

"Zach Stodden is a proven post season wrestler, Jensen said. "He performs at his best when there is the most at stake. That is why he is a two time All-American and going for his third."

UNK's final qualifier of the day was Jarrod Hinrichs at 285 pounds. Hinrichs found himself wrestling through the back half of the bracket after suffering an upset to Sammy Deseriere of Western Colorado in his first match of the day.

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